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In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
hydrothermally producing barium titanate-based particles;
maintaining the barium titanate-based particles in a wet environment; and
forming a coating on surfaces of the barium titanate-based particles, the coating comprising an oxide, hydrous oxide, hydroxide, or organic acid salt of at least one metal other than barium and titanium.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are maintained in an aqueous slurry at least until after forming the coating on surfaces of the barium titanate-based particles.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein hydrothermally producing barium titanate-based particles comprises mixing barium hydroxide solution with a hydrous titanium oxide slurry.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein hydrothermally producing barium titanate-based particles further comprises heating the mixture of barium hydroxide solution with a hydrous titanium oxide slurry to a temperature in the range of 100 °C to 200 °C.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising washing the barium titanate-based particles with a wash fluid prior to forming the coating on surfaces of the barium titanate-based particles.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising removing at least some of the wash fluid from the particles prior to forming the coating on surfaces of the barium titanate-based particles.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising de-agglomerating the coated barium titanate-based particles by high shear mixing.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, comprising de-agglomerating the coated barium titanate-based particles by high shear mixing so that at least 90 percent of the coated particles have a particle size of less than 0.9 micrometer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an oxide, hydrous oxide, hydroxide or organic acid salt of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of lithium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, scandium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, manganese, cobalt, nickel, zinc, boron, silicon, antimony, tin, yttrium, lanthanum, lead, bismuth or a Lanthanide element.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least 90 percent of the coated barium titanate-based particles have a particle size less than 0.9 micrometer.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least 90 percent of the coated barium titanate-based particles have a particle size less than 0.8 micrometer.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least 90 percent of the coated barium titanate-based particles have a particle size less than 0.7 micrometer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least 90 percent of the coated barium titanate-based particles have a particle size less than 0.6 micrometer.

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15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the coated barium titanate-based particles have a primary particle size less than 0.5 micrometer.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the barium titanate-based particles are equiaxed or spherical.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising maintaining the barium titanate-based particles in an aqueous environment.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming the coating comprises adding a solution comprising a salt of the metal to the wet environment and precipitating the coating.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising maintaining the barium titanate-based particles in an aqueous environment and the step of forming the coating comprises adding a solution comprising a salt of the metal to the aqueous environment and precipitating the coating.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing the coated barium titanate-based particles to form a dielectric layer of a MLC device.

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